

Atty's 23459

Pat. App. 10/559,585

REMARKS

Applicants are submitting this preliminary amendment in response to a telephone call from Examiner Bates on 11 October 2007, in which she indicated that Applicants' claims 1 through 9 as attached to the amended sheet submitted together with the instant application will not be examined because these claims were never formally made of record. Instead original claims 1 through 3 will be examined unless Applicants cancel original claims 1 through 3 and submit the amended claims 1 through 9 as new claims whose numbering starts with claim 4, in a preliminary amendment.

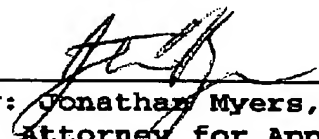
Applicants therefore have canceled original claims 1 through 3 and are submitting new claims 4 through 13, which for the most part correspond with claims 1 through 9 in the amended sheet, except that Applicants have removed the term "characterized by" and have added more positive process steps in order to comply with the requirements of US Patent Practice. Antecedent basis for claims 4 through 13 may be found in the specification on pages 2 through 5.

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Further action is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure:

None.